

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS, SUPPOSED TO
BE FROM THE INTERIOR OF VENEZUELA.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

The birds here described as probably new to science were found attached to a bead belt belonging to the Ethnological Department of the National Museum, which was kindly submitted to me for examination by Prof. O. T. Mason, curator of that department. The origin of the belt was unknown, but it is supposed, judging from the birds which were suspended from it as ornamental appendages, to have come from some portion of the Upper Orinoco region, in Venezuela, or contiguous portion of the Rio Negro basin.

1. *Pyroderus masoni*, sp. nov. .

SP. CHAR.—Most like *P. orenocensis* Lafr., but plumage much darker beneath, the throat and jugulum nearly uniform dull brownish red, the breast and abdomen dark brownish chestnut.

Adult (type, No. 106,051, U. S. Nat. Mus.; locality and collector unknown): Entire upper parts, sides of head and neck, chin, upper portion of throat, and anterior portion of malar region (for .60 of an inch backward from the malar apex), uniform deep black; flanks and lower portion of abdomen duller black. Throat and upper portion of jugulum nearly uniform "dragon's blood" red, the feathers uniform ferruginous beneath the surface; lower portion of jugulum (for the space of about .75–1.00 inch) uniform dark ferruginous, bordered below by a band of dull black, the feathers of which are broadly but indistinctly tipped with very dark ferruginous. Lower part of breast and greater portion of abdomen uniform ferruginous-chestnut. Under wing-coverts ferruginous, some of the feathers with the inner webs slate-dusky. Bill dull brown (in dried skin).

The specimen being without wings, tail, or feet, and the bill broken, measurements cannot be given.

Another specimen (No. 106,050) is essentially similar, but has the red of the throat and jugulum lighter and of a more rufous tint.

There being, apparently, no comparative diagnoses extant of the species of this genus, and having at the present moment examples of all of them before me, the following synoptical table of their distinctive characters is presented for the convenience of the student:—

a¹. Gorget clear rufous-orange, the feathers tipped with bright scarlet.

b¹. Breast and abdomen only very slightly mixed with ferruginous; bill, from nostril, more than 1 inch. *Habitat*—Brazil, south of the Amazon; Paraguay.

P. SCUTATUS (Shaw).

b². Breast and abdomen largely mixed with ferruginous; bill, from nostril, less than 1 inch, rather more compressed. *Habitat*—Columbia; Venezuela?

P. GRENADENSIS (Lafr.)

a². Gorget rufous, the feathers tipped with brownish red.

b¹. Feathers of gorget abruptly tipped with brownish red; breast and abdomen clear ferruginous. *Habitat*—Venezuela; Colombia?

P. ORENOCENSIS (Lafr.)

b². Feathers of gorget indistinctly tipped with darker brownish red; breast and abdomen dark ferruginous-chestnut. *Habitat*—Head-waters of Orinoco?

P. MASONI Ridgw.

The four forms characterized above appear to be divisible into two groups, each apparently representing a distinct species, with two geographical races. If this view of their relationship is correct, they should stand, respectively, as follows: (1) *P. scutatus* (Shaw); (2) *P. scutatus grenadensis* (Lafr.); (3) *P. orenocensis* (Lafr.); (4) *P. orenocensis masoni* Ridgw. The intergradation of *P. scutatus* and *P. grenadensis* is strongly indicated, if not proven, by a specimen in the National Museum (No. 105,850), said to be from Venezuela, which is exactly intermediate in coloration between a Brazilian example (No. 21,858) and one from Bogota (No. 100,296).

2. *Aulacorhamphus dimidiatus*, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *A. atrogularis* (Sturm), but with the bill very much shorter, the gonys very little longer than the ramus of the mandible, instead of nearly twice as long, and black stripe along edge of maxilla much broader.

Adult (type, No. 106,052, locality and collector unknown): Bright parrot-green, the lower parts inclining to glaucous-green; chin and upper part of throat black, narrowly and rather indistinctly bordered posteriorly by dull blue. Tail darker blue than the back, shaded with blue, and each feather, except outer pair, broadly tipped with deep chestnut; under tail-coverts bright rufous. Upper mandible deep yellow, tinged with green on lateral portions; basal portion of culmen with a cuneate blackish spot, and edge of the mandible, except at tip, marked with a broad stripe of black, averaging about .15 of an inch wide, except at the base, where the black extends upward nearly to the nostril; the color along the edge of this black stripe, or where adjoining the yellow, decidedly green for the greater portion; base of upper mandible with a marginal bar of dull yellowish, about .12 of an inch broad. Lower mandible deep black, with a dull white basal margin, this about .35 of an inch wide at the broadest portion. Culmen, 2.25; gonys, 1.42; ramus of lower mandible, 1.20; tail, 5.15, graduated for 2.40. (Wings and feet wanting.)

Another specimen (No. 106,053) is, in general, similar, but has the green above more tinged with olive, and the black on edge of upper mandible connected, near the base of the mandible, with the black spot on sub basal portion of the culmen; the latter marking is broader, and rounded, instead of pointed, anteriorly. Culmen, 2.20; gonys, 1.30; rami of lower mandible, 1.25,

Myiopsitta lineola (Cass.)?

Three adults and one young of what is apparently this species, or one very closely related, were found attached to the belt and removed. The young example I am unable to distinguish satisfactorily from specimens of the Mexican bird in the same stage, of which there are three in the National Museum collection, but, unfortunately, no adults. The type of *Psittacula lineola* Cass. appears to have been immature, since the description agrees substantially with the presumed young in the National Museum collection. I have endeavored to borrow the two specimens mentioned by Mr. Cassin, but am informed that they cannot now be found in the Academy of Natural Sciences' collection.

The points of difference between the adult and immature birds are as follows:

Adult: Upper tail-coverts yellowish green, heavily blotched with black, the blotches decidedly longitudinal; middle pair of tail-feathers wholly black for the exposed portion, or else with only a very little green showing along the edge.

Young: Upper tail-coverts duller and less yellowish green, each tipped with a small deltoid spot of black, having a transverse rather than longitudinal direction; middle pair of tail-feathers mostly green for the exposed portion, the tip and a streak along the shaft only being black. General plumage less vivid, with the black bars less distinct.

Differences are appreciable between the young bird of supposed South American habitat and those from Mexico, but with only a single specimen it cannot be determined to what extent the observed differences may be individual in character. They consist chiefly in the larger size and generally darker coloration of the southern specimen.